176 West 13th Street N York
September 20th 1865.

Wm Lloyd Garrison
Dear Sir

108

Dr. Edwin Leigh the bearer of this was associated with Dr. Stone as you may perhaps remember in a very extensive and in a degree successful effort to introduce Phonotypy into the Common Schools of Massachusetts as a means of teaching Children and adults to read the ordinary print. This was somewhat later than when you lent your cooperation to Mr. Boyle and myself in behalf of the same reform. You remember that among the objects we all had in view then was the facilitating of Education among the Colored adults of the South, to the limited extent to which education was then permitted to reach them. Propitious events have now opened a wide field, and a greater demand for such improvement in the mode of common education; and on the other hand Dr. Leigh has in the mean time been engaged in elaborating such simplification and adaptation of the Phonetic Machinery as will I think render it a perfect success. We found at that day that what we were attempting was a great radical reform, intrinsically right but meeting with extreme difficulties in the prejudices of the public and in various ways. We had not either come to a full understanding of the great subject in all its various branches. On the one hand it led on in the direction of a still more radical discovery, — namely that of a Universal Language in which I remember that at that time, you had faith. To that branch of the subject I have devoted myself almost ever since, and am nearly ready to publish the discovery.

In another direction something less radical than we were then attempting — a mere transition to aid the more rapid acquisition of the common art of reading developed itself as another branch of the movement and a special desideratum for adults in the condition of the Southern blacks, Dr. Leigh has given his attention to that subject. His labors or the fact that he was so engaged have only of late come to my knowledge. I have given them a full examination and am satisfied that he has hit upon just that adaptation to the special want which will make it a most acceptable agent in the rapid education of the freed men, to say nothing now of its uses in our own common schools.

I think that you have that knowledge of me and so much confidence in my judiciousness of opinion on such a subject that this statement from me will have weight with you in forming your own judgment. Whether this is so or not, I beg of you to give it an examination yourself and if your judgment should concur with mine;

then I wish to say to you in great earnestness that there is no other man in the world who by a single strong word can do so much to ensure the System's early and rapid *success* as yourself. If conscientiously and intelligently you can say in the behalf of this purpose what my convictions would authorize me to say, he will have no difficulty in getting a full and fair trial of his books in the *Freedmen's Schools*; and in that Event I feel no hesitancy in predicting that in from two to *five* years the Free North would have - if they had not already introduced the *system* - to copy this great improved system of education from the now ignorant South.

I put it my dear Sir upon your conscience to examine the scheme and if satisfied, I beg in behalf of another earnest reformer, Dr. Leigh, and *still* more in behalf of humanity, that you will *not* turn away from the project, pressed even as you may be by other important matters; nor even "damn it with faint praise": but that you will give to the Doctor the *substantial* aid of your full and earnest endorsement and advocacy.

I remain very truly
Your friend and Obt Servt

S. P. Andrews.